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**East Elloe
Rural District Council**



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

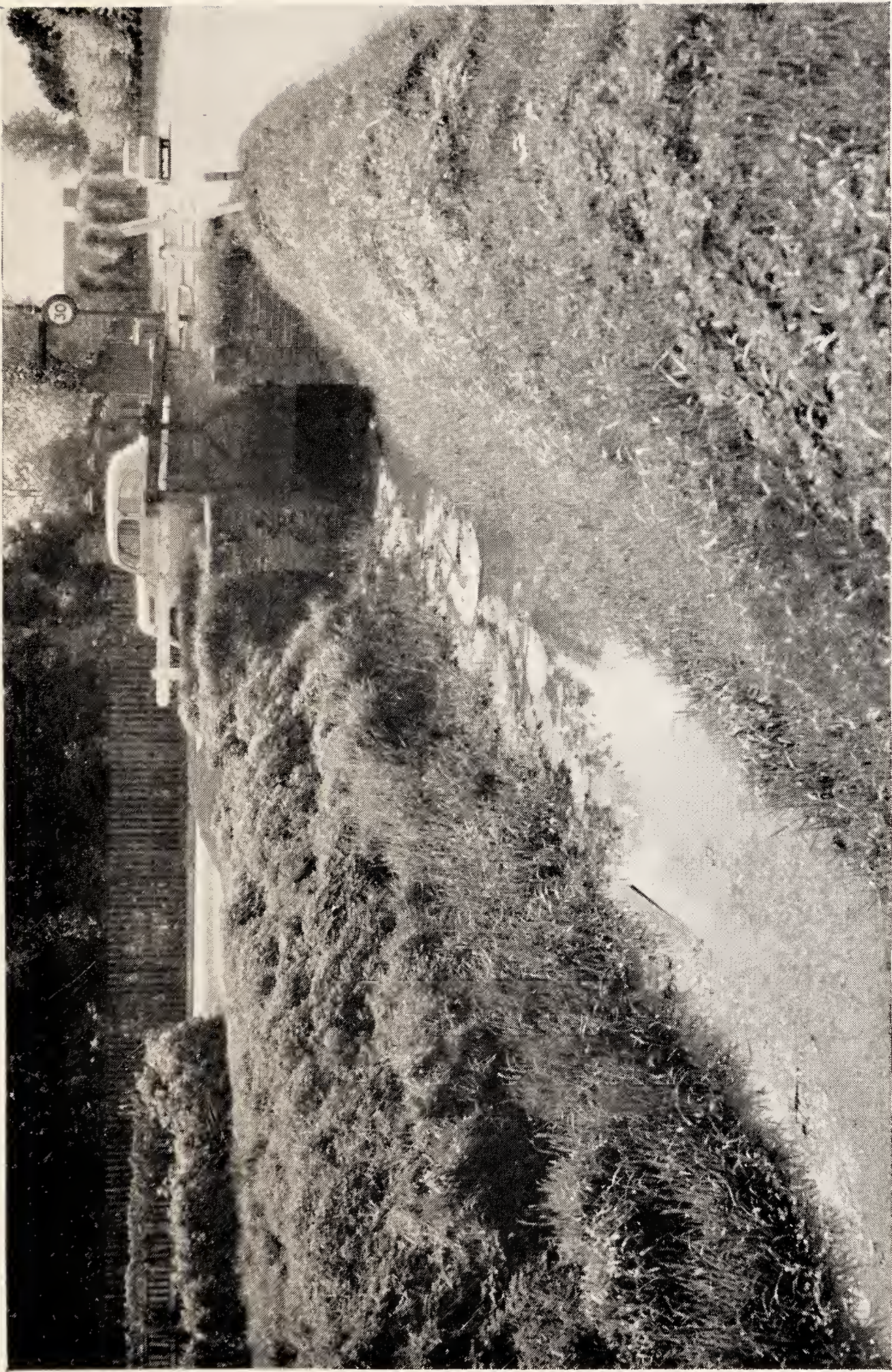
Medical Officer of Health

and the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the

Year 1957



THE OUTLET OF HOLBEACH TOWN TUNNEL

This tunnel which receives untreated sewage from several properties discharges into the Old River within a quarter of a mile from the centre of the town.



THE OLD RIVER.

Stagnant and heavily contaminated, it is now known locally as the "Stinker."

East Elloe Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council : Mrs. A. H. S. Hunter, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. A. White.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Mr. H. L. Neaverson.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. S. Garner.

Members :

Mr. W. H. Baines.	Mr. A. G. Howlett.
Mr. J. G. Baker.	Mrs. A. H. S. Hunter, J.P.
Mr. R. G. Barwell.	Mr. J. Munson.
Mr. F. Baxter.	Mr. G. H. Parker.
Rev. C. V. Browne-Wilkinson.	Mr. H. Piggins, J.P.
Mr. J. W. Cooper.	Mr. T. H. Rose.
Mr. J. Cuthbert.	Mr. C. Rowell.
Mr. A. L. Dobbs.	Mr. T. W. Selby.
Mr. H. W. Farrow, J.P.	Mr. A. Tubbs.
Mr. T. Fines.	Mr. H. Waltham.
Mr. C. Hesketh.	Mr. R. Weston.
Mr. C. Hopkins.	Mr. A. White.
Mr. I. K. Howes.	

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

H. P. Burrowes, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR—

W. B. Hitchings, B.Sc (Hons.), M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.Inst.P.C.,
A.Inst.S.P.

DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS—

L. H. Motley, M.A.P.H.I. (to 22nd April, 1957).


G. Draycott, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

B. F. Larkinson, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (from 13th May, 1957).

CLERKS—

Miss F. J. Whelpton.

Miss V. Jackson.



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East Elloe Rural District Council,
Mattimore House, Holbeach.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1957.

To the Chairman & Members of the East Elloe Rural District Council.

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the health of your district for the year 1957.

The statistics to which the department has access are limited and therefore cannot be said to give a very accurate picture of the over-all health of your population. They do show, however, that with respect to the incidence of infectious diseases, infant mortality and overall mortality your district compares favourably with the country as a whole. The time has surely come when notification should be extended to include home accidents, and diseases such as coronary thrombosis, the cancers and mental illness.

Your council has a special responsibility for maintaining a healthy environment. In the past this responsibility was confined to environment in so far as it affected the spread of infectious diseases but now that mental diseases are becoming a more important cause of morbidity it will be necessary to bear these conditions in mind as well.

This will be particularly important in the planning of housing estates. Your predecessors built houses without proper bathrooms and W.C's. as late as 1940. This policy has left you a legacy of outdated property. Your council have made great improvements in the intervening years and all the houses built since then are provided with modern bathroom accommodation. In an age when mental health is becoming so important, however, it must be recognised that while the provision of well equipped and symmetrically arranged housing units of identical design may meet all the requirements of physical hygiene it does not foster the mental hygiene of the persons who live among them. May I therefore make a plea that your Architect be allowed to use his talent in the design and layout of council houses so that you can pass on to the next generation houses of which they need not be ashamed.

I would like to thank the Clerk, Mr. Pywell, and all Chief Officers for their helpful co-operation throughout the year and to express my thanks to the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Hitchings for the efficient manner in which he has administered all aspects of the department's work.

I am, Madam, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. P. BURROWES,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The district is mainly agricultural and covers an area of 84,597 acres.

The Rateable Value, 1st April, 1957 : £138,443.

The Rateable Value, 1st April, 1958 : £140,415.

The Sum represented by one penny rate at 1st April, 1958 : (estimated) £570.

The number of inhabited houses according to the rate book at 31. 3. 58 number 7,209.

VITAL STATISTICS

Estimated Mid-Year Population (Registrar-General) 23,110.

Births.	Males	Females	Total
Livebirths			
Legitimate	158	144	302
Illegitimate	8	3	11
	—	—	—
	166	147	313
	—	—	—
Stillbirths			
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	4	2	6
	—	—	—
Deaths.			
All Ages	126	100	226
Infants under 1 year of age :			
Legitimate	6	2	8
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	7	2	9
	—	—	—
Infants under 4 weeks of age :			
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	6	1	7
	—	—	—

Rates per 1,000 Population

Live Births	13.69
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total Live and Stillbirths)	18.81
Deaths	9.81
Deaths of Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 Livebirths)	28.75
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks (per 1,000 Livebirths)	22.36
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortions	Nil

CAUSES AND NUMBERS OF DEATHS IN EAST ELLOE RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1957

					Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	...	...	1	1	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	2	4
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	4	2	6
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	3	3
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	18	11	29
15.	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	15	16	31
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	24	9	33
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	4	3	7
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	21	19	40
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	6	4	10
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	4	1	5
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	3	5
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	1	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	4	—	4
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	2	1	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	13	16	29
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	1	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	2	3	5
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total number of deaths :					129	100	229

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The birth and death rate have been corrected by using the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General and these figures may therefore be compared with those of England and Wales.

	East Elloe Rural District	England and Wales
Live Birth Rate	13.69	16.1
Death Rate	9.81	11.5
Infant Mortality Rate	28.75	23.1
Stillbirths	18.81	22.5

The above table shows that your figures compare favourably with those of the country as a whole.

The main causes of death in your district are due to diseases which are associated with old age.

It is important to study carefully the causes of death, which in our present state of knowledge are preventable. You will see that lung cancer caused more deaths than any other single type of cancer while more deaths were caused by accidents than by tuberculosis and poliomyelitis.

The comparatively large number of deaths due to influenza is partly due to the recent influenza epidemic which often produced a very severe illness in the aged and the infirm.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (Excluding Tuberculosis)

Disease	Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	36
Whooping Cough	10
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Measles	735
Diphtheria	—
Pneumonia	17
Dysentery	4
Enteric Fever	—
Paratyphoid Fever	1
Erysipelas	4
Meningococcal Infection	1
Food Poisoning	28
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Total :	836

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Disease under Age Groups.

Disease	Age Group in years								Total
	under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & over	Not known	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	4	22	7	1	2	—	36
Whooping Cough	—	1	4	5	—	—	—	—	10
Measles	13	105	166	424	10	5	7	5	735
Pneumonia	—	1	1	1	2	—	10	2	17
Dysentery	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	4
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	4
Meningococcal Infection	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	—	28
Total cases :	14	109	175	452	20	34	24	8	836

There was a prolonged epidemic of measles in your district last year and some children developed very serious complications. There is still a need, I feel, to protect toddlers from this disease as far as is possible as they are very prone to develop serious complications.

A limited outbreak of food poisoning occurred in the R.A.F. station at Sutton Bridge. The prompt action of the R.A.F. medical authorities ensured that the infection did not spread outside the camp.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation for the year 1957 (Diphtheria).

Between the 1st January, 1957 and the 31st December, 1957, 239 children under five years of age, and 31 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years, received a primary immunisation course (3 injections at monthly intervals).

A further 121 children were given a “booster” or secondary injection.

The following table compiled from figures supplied by the County Medical Officer shows the numbers and percentage of the child population immunised at any time during the years 1943-1957 inclusive.

District	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5-14 years	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boston Borough ...	93	24	1246	81.9	3337	84.5
Spalding Urban ...	39	17.3	720	85.1	1933	87.5
Boston Rural ...	64	18.4	1052	75.5	2879	82.1
East Elloe Rural ...	70	22.2	1034	68.7	3129	82.8
Spalding Rural ...	54	17.2	881	74.9	2680	84.9
Total	320	20.5	4933	76.4	13958	84.1

TUBERCULOSIS

Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at 31/12/57.	}	Pulmonary ...	...	M. 39	F. 38	Total 77
		Non-pulmonary	...	6	2	8
Cases removed from the Register as cured during 1957.	}	Pulmonary ...	...	1	—	1
		Non-pulmonary	...	2	—	2
Cases removed from the Register due to diagnosis not being confirmed during 1957.	}	Pulmonary ...	...	—	—	—
		Non-pulmonary	...	—	—	—
Cases added to the Register during 1957.	}	Pulmonary ...	...	4	6	10
		Non-pulmonary	...	1	1	2

The total number of cases on the Register at 31. 12. 57 was 85.

Twelve names were added to the Register during 1957 and eight cases were removed : three were cured, two died and three left the district.

Analysis of new cases and deaths during 1957.

AGE GROUP	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Non-				Non-	
	Pulmonary M.	F.	Pulmonary M.	F.	Pulmonary M.	F.	Pulmonary M.	F.
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 years	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 years	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35-45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 years	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
55-65 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 years	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	4	6	1	1	1	1	—	—

COMMENTS :

The general reduction in pulmonary tuberculosis which has occurred in the rest of the country has not occurred on the same scale in your area. This may be due partly to a focus of undetected cases in your area or the disease may be re-introduced each year by the itinerant labour force.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Hospitals.

Holbeach Hospital is attended by the various specialists at given intervals. It is a general practitioner's hospital and a duty rota is maintained by all the practitioners in the District.

(b) Ambulance Service.

A Standing Joint Committee representative of the Local Medical Committee, the Hospital Management Committee and the County Council aims at ensuring the efficiency of this Service.

(c) Midwifery and Maternity Services.

The County Council is the supervising authority under the Midwives Acts.

(d) Health Visiting.

Health Visitors attend infant welfare and ante-natal clinics, visit expectant and nursing mothers and mental defectives.

(e) Clinic and Treatment Services.

Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-natal clinics are provided by the County Council at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge.

Ophthalmological examinations are provided by appointment at Holbeach Clinic.

Speech Therapy is provided by appointment at Holbeach Clinic.

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough are provided at all Infant Welfare Clinics.

(f) Home Nursing.

A home nursing service is maintained by the County Council.

(g) Home Helps.

This service is provided by the County Council and is available to the public during illness or in the later months of pregnancy.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—Section 47.

The department was consulted on three occasions about persons in need of care and attention. Two of these cases went into hospital voluntarily, but the other person was left at home as I did not feel action under this section was justified on this occasion.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

A good wholesome supply of water is supplied to your district. A detailed report from Mr. Rippin, the Water Engineer is included.

Housing.

There is a considerable amount of slum property in your district and in many cases healthy old people are spending their last days in houses that are not only unfit but unsafe. A survey carried out in one of your parishes suggests that a third of all old people are living in unfit property. The repudiation of one-bedroomed bungalows in these circumstances may only aggravate the problem and in the case of many leave the ultimate solution to the inexorable march of natural events.

The provision of houses for persons who claim priority on health grounds is left to a parochial sub-committee who have no professional adviser. This means that the housing resources of the entire area are not available to the most deserving cases.

Refuse Collection and Sewerage.

Your council continues to maintain a most efficient and comprehensive collection system in the face of great difficulties. The foundation of this system would be greatly strengthened if the Council would encourage all landlords to provide a proper dustbin for their tenants.

A sewerage scheme for Holbeach was first considered in 1853, the cost at that time would have been £7,091. Since then people have allowed their sewage to flow into the town tunnel which as the frontispiece shows discharges itself within a quarter of a mile from the centre of the town. Flies can therefore carry faecal particles from this point of discharge to the nearby houses. The other menace to health comes from the numerous pail closets in the town. It is most important that a special effort be made to get the sewerage scheme started as soon as possible.

WATER SUPPLY

The following details have been kindly supplied by the Council's Water Engineer, Mr. H. Rippin.

Ministry approval was received to the Council's further schemes for trunk main and distribution main extensions.

The trunk main scheme was to continue the 12 in. diameter main laid from Weston Pumping Station to Whaplode in 1954 and extend from Whaplode to Holbeach.

The distribution scheme allowed for 22 sections of 3 in. and 4 in. diameter mains to be laid in various parts of the district.

The Ministry advised that these schemes were dependent upon an assurance of adequate bulk supply being received at Weston Pumping Station.

In consequence a joint scheme was prepared with the Spalding Rural District Council to enable an additional bulk supply of upwards of one million gallons per day to be obtained from the Pinchbeck source of the Spalding R.D.C. This supply, together with the existing guarantee from the Spalding Urban District Council of 0.7 million gallons per day, will, it is estimated, ensure supplies for at least 20 years hence. It is hoped that these schemes will be carried out in 1958.

The Government policy of re-grouping water undertakings is engaging the attention of the Local Authorities within the area and a number of joint meetings have been held together with representations of the British Waterworks Association.

A revision of byelaws for the protection of pipe against frost damage was adopted. Also leaflets giving advice on the precautions to be taken to guard against frost damage were distributed to the public.

A number of small extensions were carried out by direct labour during the year under review.

A scheme was also prepared and approved for laying a 9 in. diameter main at Long Sutton to supplement supplies to the new secondary modern school being erected at Roman Bank, Long Sutton. This 9 in. diameter main will ultimately link up with the Council's proposed trunk main scheme to be carried through to the Little Sutton Tower at a later date.

The water received at Weston Pumping Station was 166,502,000 gallons from Spalding Urban D.C. and 118,042,000 gallons from Spalding Rural D.C. The total water pumped from Weston was 287,698,000 gallons of which 50,247,000 was returned to Spalding R.D.C. and 16,056,000 supplied to Wisbech and District Water Board, leaving 221,395,000 gallons distributed throughout the area of the Council at an average of 606,548 gallons per day.

Bacteriological Examinations.

As a check on the quality of the supply, 22 samples of mains water were taken by the public health inspectors from various parts of the district and sent to the public health laboratory for examination. In addition, 3 samples were taken from new lengths of main before putting them into service.

A sample was taken from each of two wells at the rear of food shops and, as the results in each case proved unsatisfactory, use of the supplies was discontinued and mains water supplies provided. Another sample from a rain-water cistern was found to be unsatisfactory but the one aged occupant preferred to use this water and so refused to pay a water rate. In consequence the existing mains supply was cut off by the Council. With a subsequent request for a water closet, the piped water has been restored, but it is not known if the occupier is using pure water for flushing the W.C. and polluted water for drinking purposes. A proper supply has also been laid on to the farm-house, found to be using a very unsatisfactory supply (mentioned in last year's Annual Report). In this case, cattle in an adjoining field had enjoyed mains water whilst the human occupants of the farm-house made-do with a polluted shallow well.

A very inviting stretch of the South Holland main drain used by people from Sutton Bridge for bathing was, with dismay, found to produce samples of water showing evidence of recent gross faecal pollution, and consequently warning was given in the press of the danger of bathing here. There does not seem to be any suitable alternative bathing place within the rural district although it adjoins the sea for over 10 miles.

Chemical Examination.

A typical chemical analysis of mains water after mixing of the two supplies is as follows :—

(a) Physical Examination

Colour : Nil

Appearance : Clear, no deposit

Taste : Satisfactory

Odour : Nil

Reaction : Faintly Alkaline : P.H. 7.6

(b) General Chemical Examination					Parts per million
Free carbon dioxide, as CO ₂	...	...	...	...	19
Ammoniacal nitrogen, as N	...	...	...	negligable	trace
Albuminoid nitrogen, as N	...	...	...	...	0.03
Nitrate nitrogen, as N	...	...	...	...	nil
Nitrate nitrogen, as N	...	...	...	...	nil
Total hardness as CaCO ₃	...	...	...	...	335
Carbonate (Temporary) Hardness	...	...	...	...	250
Non-carbonate (Permanent) Hardness	...	...	...	...	85
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate	...	...	...	...	0.52
Alkalinity, as CaCO ₃	...	...	...	...	250
Total dissolved solids	...	...	...	...	465
Calcium Hardness	...	...	...	...	285

(c) Mineral Analysis

Calcium as Ca	...	...	...	...	...	114
Magnesium, as Mg	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sodium, as Na	...	...	...	...	...	30
Carbonate, as CO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	150
Chlorine, as Cl	...	...	...	...	...	22
Sulphate, as SO ₄	...	...	...	...	...	106
Nitrate, as NO ₃	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Iron, as Fe	...	...	...	...	...	nil
Fluoride as F	...	...	...	...	...	0.25
Silica as SiO ₂	...	...	...	...	...	4
Metals in solution other than iron	...	...	...	...	...	nil

(d) Analyst's Opinion

This water is of a very good organic quality and the chemical analysis does not show any sign of pollution. The total hardness approximates to 23½° Clark, of which all but 6° is temporary and due to dissolved chalk.

The reaction is well on the alkaline side of neutrality, the free carbonic acid content being low, so that this water would not be expected to have any serious corrosive action on metals. Iron and other metals were in fact absent from the sample, which was of very satisfactory appearance, odour and taste. In our opinion this water is well adapted to the purposes of a public supply.

The results call for no special comment except to point out that the fluorine content of 0.25 p.p.m. is a little above average for East Anglian water supplies.

Report of the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area compiled by the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

1957 has been a year of continued progress in the district. One is apt to look, with regret, for that which has not been done and fail to see that which has been done.

Lack of progress towards the provision of main sewerage schemes is regretted but, as is mentioned later, one tenth of the district has actually already got this amenity.

Public cleansing, that ubiquitous section of the Health Department, has been executed with an efficiency which reflects most favourably on those who carry out this service. A total of 19 men are employed and it is pleasing to note that nearly half of the present staff have been with the Council since the inception of the present scheme in 1940. This indicates the happy relationship existing between the authority and its employees.

Refuse and salvage collections are still increasing and the tonnage of paper and cardboard disposed of during the year has increased by over 9% and it is felt that the time is coming when some form of mechanical baling should be considered. One aspect of refuse collection that is open to criticism is in connection with the diverse containers used by the public. Tea-chests, buckets, oil drums and so on cannot be considered satisfactory for, apart from exposing their objectionable contents to the public view they tend to increase the fly population of the district with all its attendant risks.

Demands on the cesspool emptying service increase year by year. The emptying is no great problem but this cannot be said for disposal—one of the biggest headaches of the Department.

Night-soil collection has continued as in the past. This is possibly the most offensive service carried out by the Department. Offensive to the householder from whose premises collection is made and offensive to the unfortunate pedestrian who happens to be passing by at the time. Nuisance is inevitable whatever the time of collection and it is sincerely hoped that, pending the provision of main sewerage schemes, the Council will give serious consideration to the question of providing their own properties with modern amenities and so give a lead to the district.

It has been an interesting year with regard to housing in that a commencement has been made with the slum clearance programme. Progress however, for a variety of reasons, has not been quite as rapid as had been hoped.

Food hygiene has received attention and it is pleasing to record the ready co-operation given by practically all the tradespeople.

It is more than pleasing to be able to record 100% meat inspection and I feel that I should record my appreciation of the willing and pleasant way in which the two district public health inspectors have carried out this work—often in the evenings and at weekends. The responsibility devolving in the inspector is not always realised. He has to be very sure of his judgement before he condemns a carcase worth say £75 or more. On the other hand financial considerations must never affect his judgement where the health of the public is involved.

I will conclude by acknowledging the great assistance I have always received from the Members, particularly the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, all the Officers of the Council and the staff of the Health Department in particular.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

W. B. HITCHINGS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Department is responsible for the inspection and testing of all new drainage work. Soundness is checked with a water or smoke pressure test and a ball is used to check for internal obstructions. This latter test is particularly important owing to the “flat” falls necessitated by the high water table level.

During the year new drainage work at 95 private premises and 12 council houses was inspected and tested. Advice was given in a number of cases in connection with the repair and improvement of existing drainage systems. It is pleasing to record the friendly relationship which exists with the builders in the district who almost invariably consult the Department when they have problems in connection with drainage work. The work carried out is of a high standard and it is rare for any serious faults to be found.

It is regretted that little or no progress has been made with the sewerage schemes for Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge. However, practically all the post-war Council housing estates have their own sewage disposal plants and it is interesting to note that, owing to this post-war development, nearly one-tenth of the houses in the district are connected with properly designed sewage disposal plants. The Department is responsible for the maintenance of all these plants, 21 in all ; together with 3 County Council installations. A new van was obtained during the year for maintenance purposes.

Owing to the absence of main sewerage schemes recourse has to be made to other forms of drainage disposal. The recommended system comprises a settlement tank of about 700 gallons capacity overflowing to a similarly sized soakaway. Square junction inlet and outlet pipes are fitted in the settlement tank.

Many of the older properties in the urban parts of the district discharge their drainage into the road surface water drains. These eventually discharge into open dykes which are consequently the cause of very considerable nuisance particularly when they are near to dwellings or the roadway.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public conveniences for men and women are provided at Holbeach Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge. As the structural condition of the premises at Holbeach was found to be unsatisfactory they were closed in July. Every effort was made to replace them as soon as possible but this had, unfortunately, not been possible by the end of the year.

Temporary sanitary conveniences are provided at " Tulip Time " along the official route when large numbers of visitors come into the district. Temporary conveniences are also provided, on request, at athletic meetings, fetes, etc. and this has been much appreciated by the organisers of these events. No charge is made for this service.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Health Department is responsible for the collection of domestic and trade refuse, salvage, the emptying of vaults and cesspool and the disposal of these waste materials. Brief notes follow on the various sections of the Cleansing Service.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A weekly kerbside collection is provided in the urban parts of Whaplode, Holbeach, Fleet, Gedney, Lutton, Long Sutton, Sutton Bridge, Gedney Dyke and Holbeach Hurn.

A fortnightly collection is provided in the rest of the area with the exception of Wingland. Here owing to the scattered development collections are made at four-weekly intervals. This however is not felt to be satisfactory.

Collections are becoming much heavier and it is now necessary to use two collection vehicles on most days of the week in the urban areas. The same situation arises in the rural areas and it may be necessary in the coming year to give consideration to weekly collections in the rural areas as well as the urban ones. This is already having to be done in the Whaplode Drove and Gedney Hill districts.

Collection work is carried out with a fore-and-aft tipper, a rear loading moving floor vehicle and a side loading freighter. An old side loading freighter has had the covers removed and is used for miscellaneous haulage purposes. The fore-and-aft tipper was acquired during the year and has proved satisfactory in operation.

Disposal is by controlled tipping in pits or on low-lying land. Two sites were used during the year. One was a pit in the centre of the Village of Sutton St. James and the other was a large pit at the side of the Wisbech Road, Long Sutton. Regular inspections and treatments were carried out to prevent rat and fly infestation.

(b) Salvage Collection and Disposal.

Salvage, principally paper and cardboard, is collected at the same time as the refuse. Trailers are attached to the refuse vehicles for this purpose. Special collections are made from business premises in the urban areas. The amounts collected are increasing as the following figures show.

Material			Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Paper and Cardboard	...	...	262	12	3	1995	14	3
Textiles	...	...	4	5	1	92	14	11
Ferrous Metals	...	...	61	8	3	249	12	0
Non-ferrous Metals	...	...		7	3	28	16	0
Sundries	...	...				2	12	6
Totals			328	14	2	£2369	9	8

This is equivalent to a 4½d. rate.

Total value of salvage sold since the present scheme began in 1940 is £24,286.

(c) Sanitary Pail Collection and Disposal.

A weekly collection is made from about 900 premises in Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge.

Disposal is effected by composting with straw in well drained ground level tanks. The product is similar to farmyard manure and several local farmers make use of it for agricultural purposes. Sites in use are situated at Whaplode and Holbeach.

(d) Cesspool and Vault Emptying.

This work is carried out with four suction-type cesspool emptiers. Three are of 1,100 gallons capacity whilst the fourth, now 18 years old, has a capacity of 800 gallons. Privy vaults are emptied free of charge whenever application is made. Cesspools are emptied free of charge provided service is not required at less than twelve-monthly intervals. Charges, when made, are based on the time taken and the time since the previous service. Other chargeable work is carried out such as the emptying of rain-water cisterns, factory sludge tanks and so on. The income from these sources in 1957 was £1,550. During the year 7,930 vaults and cesspools were emptied. An increase of over 11% on last year's figures.

The number of vaults emptied each year over the past 7 years or so is roughly constant but the demand for cesspool emptying increases year by year. This increasing amount of work brings a most serious problem in its train—that of disposal. Only a main sewerage scheme will help to lessen it.

Disposal is effected in various ways. Composting with straw in tanks, discharge into irrigation trenches and disposal on grass and arable land. With the possible exception of composting, none of these methods can be regarded as really satisfactory.

HOUSING

Provision of new houses.

With the completion of sites at Allenby Chase, Sutton Bridge, at Hallgate, Holbeach and at Haley's site, Holbeach St. John, the number of Council owned houses at 1st June, 1958, is now as follows :-

(a) Permanent Houses.

Houses erected under all schemes prior to 1945	...	869
Houses completed since 1945	... ..	766
Houses under erection	... ..	33

(b) Temporary Bungalows.

Erected at Holbeach and Sutton Bridge	... ..	69
Ex-R.A.F. Hutments converted at Sutton Bridge	... ..	42

During 1957 the following new dwellings were completed :

(a) By the Council	... ..	46 Houses
(b) By private enterprise	... ..	9 Houses
		16 Bungalows

Applications for Council Houses.

A " points " scheme is in operation for the selection of tenants for Council houses, based on a number of factors such as condition of house, size and age of family, illness, service in H.M. Forces, period on waiting list, etc. All applications are dealt with on a parish basis by the members for the particular parish. The Health Department occasionally, and generally only on a member's request, makes reports on the housing conditions of applicants. These reports are then attached to the housing application forms. 4 such reports were made in the year. Special consideration is always given to cases of tuberculosis.

At the present time there are approximately 783 applications on the list.

Slum Clearance.

In the year, orders were made on 4 clearance areas in Holbeach, containing a total of 21 dwellings. The orders were unopposed, confirmed and became operative.

Eight houses included in clearance areas were demolished by the end of the year and a further four houses were demolished after individual orders were placed on them. Official closing orders were made in respect of a further four houses, and two were closed after informal action with the owners.

Unfortunately it was not possible to press forward with the slum clearance programme in all parishes owing to the absence of accommodation for those likely to be displaced. It is hoped that the building of new dwellings for this purpose can be stepped up so that the worst of our slum property can be wiped out before long.

Housing Repairs.

A total of 54 houses were repaired in the period after informal action. As reported last year, until more slum clearance work is done, there remains in the various parishes a nucleus of worn out dwellings on which it is extremely difficult to get even minor repairs carried out as demolition and re-housing is the only really appropriate procedure and owners are aware of this.

A certificate of disrepair was issued under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 in respect of a cottage where the increase of Rent had been made under the Rent and Mortgage Interest Act, 1920. This was subsequently revoked after the list of defects, as modified by the Rent Act, 1957, had been attended to. The consideration of the Minister when formulating the latter Act in relieving the inspector of the onus of making out the first list of defects of repair has been largely nullified by the involved procedure entailed and by his request that powers under the Public Health and Housing Acts should be fully used on such properties.

Fifteen applications on Form G were received and by the end of the year it was decided to issue twelve certificates, seven of them in respect of all the defects listed by the tenant. Five undertakings were accepted from landlords. Seven certificates of disrepair were issued.

Improvement Grants.

Applications were received for grants to improve 17 properties and after joint inspection with the Council's Architect, 16 were approved for a 25% grant toward the cost of improvement. During the year, the work at 12 properties had been satisfactorily completed.

Moveable Dwellings.

Moveable dwellings licensed are almost all modern trailer caravans which are used for permanent residence, and they are not a problem in this area. There is one small model site containing 9 caravans, each with W.C. and drainage disposal, water and electricity, garage and proper paving.

Licences issued in respect of moveable dwellings	...	...	38
Licences issued in respect of sites	...	...	4

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Inspection of Food Premises.

The work of ensuring that food businesses comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-1956, has continued apace. There have been many installations of sinks, wash-hand basins, geysers and first aid kits as traders on the whole have co-operated well with the department. However, owing to pressure of other duties, there has not been as much time to devote to this subject as it merits. It is a facet of our work which is very much in the public eye at the moment and although a customer is able to choose the clean shop where food is carefully handled at the counter, only the inspector has the opportunity to check on conditions and practices behind. One continual battle which is waged with traders is to keep foods, particularly tomatoes and fruits, at least 18 ins. above the floor.

The increasing use of pre-packed foods is a very great asset for the small general stores, so common in this district, which suffer from lack of space, poor screening arrangements and where very mixed commodities are stored together. Some of these food shops are also agents for a laundry, in one case it is also a lending library. Pre-packing is now so extensive that in several bakers and confectioner's shops in the district, no open food is handled—a very great contrast to the position 3 or 4 years ago.

The table below gives a classified list of food premises in the district :—

Bakery and confectionery premises	...	19
Butchery premises	... ..	27
Canning and bottling premises	... ..	2
Canteens at schools, works, hospitals	... ..	22
Catering premises proper	... ..	24
Dairy and ice-cream premises	... ..	2
Fried fish and chip saloons	... ..	18
Fruit and greengrocery premises	... ..	9
Grocery and provisions premises	... ..	72
Licenced houses and clubs	... ..	103
Small general stores	... ..	12
Sweet confectionery	... ..	21
		—
		331
		—

18 premises are registered by the Council for the manufacture of sausages and preserved meats. There are 18 fish fryer's premises in the district.

Washing of Carrots.

Certain merchants adopted the practice of washing carrots and packing them in polythene bags before sending them to market. They set up a transportable apparatus adjacent to a clean-looking pond or dyke, and that water is pumped up to the washing apparatus. Samples were taken of such waters and they gave evidence of faecal pollution. It would seem that the washed carrot, even if the water used was not very satisfactory, would be a cleaner and less contaminated food. At the same time there is danger that the consumer might be given a false sense of security and would not clean the washed carrot very carefully before eating. Bearing in mind that these are frequently eaten in a raw state, it is felt that there is a possible public health hazard, and the matter could well be investigated nationally. With the co-operation of Dr. Croll of the Public Health Laboratory, bacteriological reports of the carrots were also obtained and as will be seen they are not re-assuring.

Unwashed Carrot		Washed Carrot
First batch of samples		
At centre of carrot	—	No coliform bacilli present in 3 tubes.
Portion under surface	—	Coliform bacilli present in 3 out of 3 tubes.
Second batch of samples		
At centre of carrot	No coliform bacilli present in 3 tubes	No coliform bacilli present in 3 tubes.
Portion under surface	No coliform bacilli present in 3 tubes	Coliform bacilli present in 1 out of 3 tubes.

The merchants concerned were informed of the desirability of providing a clean and wholesome water supply for their activities, and were also asked to provide sanitary conveniences and washing facilities for those employed. Soon afterwards (the work is seasonal, of course) they removed their plant from the district.

Milk.

The district of East Elloe is now wholly included in a specified area where only graded milk may be sold by retail. The small quantity of tuberculin tested milk sold without pasteurisation will be further safeguarded after 1960 by the fulfillment of the Attested Herds scheme, except as regards brucella abortus infection. There were no reports during 1957, however, of the occurrence of this infection in man.

There is one dairy in the district registered by the Council for the bottling of Tuberculin Tested Milk. Eleven distributors are registered and the following licences were issued authorising the use of special designations :—

	Dealer's Licences	Supplementary Licences
Pasteurised	11	3
Sterilised	7	3
Tuberculin Tested	3	3
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	8	—

Samples of bottled designated milk were taken by the department at regular intervals for bacteriological examinations as a guide to cleanliness and keeping quality. Chemical samples of milk, as a check for adulteration, and biological samples, as a check for tuberculosis, were taken in the year by the County Health Inspector, Holland County Council.

Ice Cream.

One manufacturer of ice-cream is registered in the district. This is a large, “ cold-mix ” plant, fully complying with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations. Regular samples were taken in the year and subjected to the Provisional Methylene Blue Test. This manufacturer must be complimented on the excellent condition and fittings on his delivery vans.

71 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream. In practically all cases, only wrapped ice-cream is sold.

Slaughterhouses.

Eight of the nine licensed slaughterhouses spread throughout the area were in operation throughout the year. The Council have brought in byelaws to control the sanitary condition and management of these premises, and, whilst all have separate hanging rooms and compare well with private slaughterhouses in similar areas, the proposed new Slaughterhouse Act is welcomed as a very necessary measure to further improve the standard, though satisfactory drainage disposal will remain a problem. Of the new requirements likely to be enforced, the provision of a proper stunning pen for beast is welcomed not the least. Its use will remove from the slaughtering process, the most objectionable part from a humane point of view, and will also promote a modicum of safety for the slaughtermen and, indeed, for the meat inspector.

Another great step forward in meat hygiene would be the finding of a practical alternative to the use of wiping cloths in small slaughterhouses.

Meat Inspection.

This branch of the public health inspector's work takes much time and trouble and involves the Council in heavy travelling expenses, but this year I can with pleasure report 100% inspection of locally killed animals has been achieved. Unfortunately this does not mean that all meat eaten in the district is inspected, as that imported from elsewhere, particularly bacon and ham, may be from a district where the Council does not provide for an adequate inspection service. Furthermore, poultry is not subjected to the same inspection procedure as the normal food animals. I am also proud in the belief that the butchers do not regard the inspector as a "nuisance inspector" but more as a quality controller providing an insurance policy for their goods.

It will be seen from the table below that tuberculosis is gradually being reduced but it will be interesting to see if the many reactors being sent for slaughter now will increase the figure. Other diseases are not reducing, to some extent this may be accounted for by the increasing use of the slaughterhouses for casualty animals. These require the utmost care on the inspector's part, and the possibility of animals being admitted when suffering from a notifiable disease is an added worry. Looking back at the varying conditions, many of a febrile nature, encountered on post-mortem examination during the year, illuminates the vital importance of a complete and competent meat inspection service.

Amount of Meat Condemned at Slaughterhouses

Year	Affected with Tuberculosis		Affected with Other Disease		Total weight	
June—Dec.						
1954	2 tons	3 cwts.	2 tons	2 cwts.	4 tons	5 cwts.
1955	4 tons	6 cwts.	4 tons	8 cwts.	8 tons	14 cwts.
1956	2 tons	18 cwts.	4 tons	14 cwts.	7 tons	12 cwts.
1957	2 tons	13 cwts.	8 tons	5 cwts.	10 tons	18 cwts.

All meat condemned is green-stained before despatch for sterilisation.

The *cysticercus bovis* problem remains with us. In the year under review 1.9% of all adult cattle were found affected. The carcasses were in the main taken to local cold-store and checks were made to ensure they remained for the prescribed period. The animals were drawn from farms over a wide surrounding area, and notification was given in each case to the district concerned. Four of the cattle affected were of local origin, but in spite of careful investigations, no positive source of infestation was established.

The use of the Agriculture Act, 1956, is a help in these investigations for securing sanitary accommodation for farm workers and might even be a weapon for reducing cysticercosis if the requiring of proper fixed equipment was not made so difficult.

A little concern has been felt over hormone implantation of steers which is now practised here, for the meat inspector and the public are in the hands of the farmer in using the correct site and dose for implantation.

Meat inspection figures for 1957 are appended.

Class of animal	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1482	15	13	1334	3760
Number inspected	1482	15	13	1334	3760
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	2	6	7	36
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	463	5	3	34	465
Percentage of carcase affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	31.5	46.7	69.2	3.1	13.3
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	77	3	—	—	85
Percentage of carcasses affect- ed with Tuberculosis	5.4	20.0	—	—	2.3
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	28	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	24	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Inspection of Other Foods.

From time to time special examinations were made of consignments of large cans of fruit imported by the local canning factory for further processing for sale. Condemnations were as follows ; the cans being disposed of by tipping in a pit in an isolated part of the area.

- 163 x 5 kilo cans Spanish Peaches
- 195 x 10 lbs. cans Spanish Peaches (out of a total of 2996 cans)
- 820 x 3 kilo cans Spanish Peaches in Syrup
- 52 x 5 kilo cans Italian Pears

Inspection of a sweet shop was made after a refrigerator motor caught fire and had contaminated 577 lbs. of various sweets and chocolates with ammonia and vaporised rubber.

It was reported that small consignments of Italian imported apples sent into the district had been found after analyst's report to have considerably more than the permitted amounts of lead and arsenic, due no doubt to residual effects of lead-arsenic spraying. These were traced from wholesaler to retailers and were allowed to be offered for sale after being thoroughly wiped.

Other foods found to be unfit for consumption, voluntarily surrendered and carefully buried in the Council's controlled tips, were as follows :—

- 425 cans, bottles and jars of various foodstuffs.
- 17½ lbs. Shoulder Mutton.
- 6½ lbs. Shoulder Bacon.
- 8 lbs. Shoulder Ham.
- 2¼ lbs. Salmon Trout.
- 80 Fish Cakes.
- 42½ lbs. Cheese.

Sampling of food and drugs for analyses by the public analyst is carried out by the County Health Officer for the Holland County Council, as Food and Drugs Authority.

DISINFESTATION

Rodent Control.

The department provides a rodent control service approved by the Ministry and attracting 50% grant towards the costs incurred. Survey work and treatment is carried out by a fully trained operator, working part-time on this service and part-time on other duties within the department. Further survey work is carried out by the public health inspectors in the course of their duties. Costs of treating business and agricultural premises are recovered from the occupiers on an actual charge basis, no contracts being entered into. No charge is made for treating domestic property.

As a rule, rats are not tolerated on the well managed and intensively cultivated farms of this district, and the numerous contracts held by the Agricultural Executive Committee ensure a very good control of the pests, but toward the close of the year a considerable increase in the rat population of the area was evident from the heavy infestations which were being treated. At this period, it was necessary to give almost constant attention to the Council refuse tips.

Informal action was taken on several occasions to secure the erection of a fence around ricks during their threshing, in accordance with Regulations, but this is a matter, like the Warble Fly Order, which is frequently not complied with, and owing to the operations lasting a short period, is not easy to control without resorting to legal action.

The present system of working this essential service is flexible yet economical, and seems to be generally appreciated by the public. Thanks are due to the care of the rodent operator for this. Considerable advantages would result, however, if there were sufficient work for the operator to be employed full-time on this service, and it is therefore hoped that on the winding-up of the Agricultural Executive Committee, the farmers will turn to the Council for their specialised help in the field of rat destruction.

The following table shows the extent of the work done in the year under review.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	1	2	3	4	5
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Total of 1, 2 & 3	Agricultural
Total Number of Properties in District ...	56	7042	1067	8165	1718
Number of Properties inspected during 1956 as a result of (a) Notification (b) Survey or (c) otherwise	(a) 3 (b) 17 (c) 6	27 84 66	8 16 198	38 117 270	14 24 —
Total Inspections	201	252	342	797	129
Number of Properties inspected found to be infested with (a) Rats (b) Mice { Major Minor { Major Minor	4 4 — 1	— 54 — 13	3 13 — —	7 71 — 14	6 14 1 —
Number of infested Properties treated by Local Authority	9	65	14	88	15
Total treatments carried out	19	67	16	102	18
No. of notices served under Section 4 of the Act (a) Treatment (b) Structural Work	— —	— —	— 4	— 4	4 —

Insect Control.

Control treatments have been carried out throughout the year on all refuse tips. Five dwellinghouses were treated to destroy fleas, one to destroy cockroaches and one crickets. The few cases where fleas are found and apparent absence of bed bugs is a tribute to the high standard of cleanliness maintained by the householders of the district.

A special treatment was given to a Council house where furniture mites had been brought in from the old, damp dwelling the tenants had recently vacated. This cottage was also disinfested and has not been re-let. Another complaint from a farm-house was found to be due to the saw-toothed Grain Beetle coming from the farm buildings. The occupier was informed of necessary control measures and given the address of a reputable firm for obtaining the most suitable insecticide.

FACTORIES

Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

The following gives details of the inspection of factory premises in the district with regard to the health provisions of the Factories Act, 1937. There were no prosecutions.

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without power	6	2	—	—
Factories with power	96	21	3	—
Works of building operations	9	9	2	—
	—	—	—	—
Total	111	32	5	—
	—	—	—	—

No. of cases in which defects were found :—

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) Insufficient	4	4	—	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—

There were no outworkers employed.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Certificates for safe means of escape in case of fire have been issued in respect of a total of 7 factories in the district. In addition, certificates were also issued in respect of the condition of entrances, exits and sanitary conditions of the 3 cinemas in the district.

Atmospheric Pollution.

No action was necessary in the year under the Clean Air Act, 1956. Industrial chimneys were kept under observation.

Storage of Petroleum.

The Chief Public Health Inspector is the appointed Petroleum Officer for the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act and Regulations made thereunder. Licences were issued in respect of 191 storage installations. All new installations have been checked at all stages and with the impending new Code of Construction, the revision of licensing conditions, and new Regulations governing electrical pumps, an increasing amount of time is being given to this duty.

